

# DISTRICT 2 NEWSLETTER

Issue I

May 2022

Councilman Jalen McKee-Rodriguez



D2 Bond Town Hall | November 6, 2021

## Dear neighbors,

These past 11 months have been busy, and we've been hard at work setting the annual budget, determining a spending framework for the American Rescue Plan Act, finalizing projects for the '22-27 Bond Program, preparing for redistricting, making our priorities known with CPS, gathering input for the Unified Development Code, proposing meaningful policy, on top of the standard expectations: hiring a qualified team, answering constituent requests, and getting our field offices up and running. In this edition of our D2 newsletter, you

will find introductions to our staff, updates on major Council votes and projects, and an overview of what we've been up to these past several months in office.

Although these past two years have challenged us in ways we may have never predicted, one thing remains true: Our community is compassionate, innovative, and truly there for our neighbors. I am consistently impressed by the level of participation our District 2 residents demonstrate. Going into 2022, we look forward to building people power and a whole lot of collaboration!

The pandemic continues to affect our City in unexpected ways, but our office will continue to serve you. You can reach us at 210.207.0950 or [Council.District2@sanantonio.gov](mailto:Council.District2@sanantonio.gov). It is a privilege and honor to serve as your District 2 Councilman, with a fantastic team on our side!

Yours in service,

Jalen McKee-Rodriguez  
Councilman, District 2

# What's New in District 2?

## Crossword Challenge

*Neighborhood Edition*

D	I	G	N	O	W	I	T	Y	H	I	L	L	V	J	P	M	R	Y	V	H	S	M	Q	R	M	O	E	L	E	P
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N	O	R	T	H	E	A	S	T	C	R	O	S	S	I	N	G	Y	E	B	V	X	W	M	P	U	B	S	F	A	N



Words are  
right -> left  
up -> down!

ALAMODOME GARDENS   BLUE ROCK SPRINGS   BRISTOL FOREST   BRYCE PLACE  
 CAMELOT I   COLISEUM OAKS   COLISEUM/WILLOW PARK   DELLCREST   DENVER HEIGHTS  
 DIGNOWITY HILL   EAST TERRELL HILLS   EAST VILLAGE   EASTGATE   EASTWOOD VILLAGE  
 FOSTER MEADOWS   GENERAL KRUEGER   GOVERNMENT HILL   HARVARD PLACE/EASTLAWN  
 HEIN ORCHARD   JEFFERSON HEIGHTS   LAKESIDE   LOWER SOUTHEAST SIDE  
 MAHNCKE PARK   NORTHEAST CROSSING   PARK VILLAGE   QUIET CREEK   ROYAL VIEW  
 SOUTHEAST SIDE   SUNRISE   UNITED HOMEOWNERS   WESTFORT   WHEATLEY HEIGHTS  
 WILSHIRE   WILSHIRE VILLAGE   WOODGLEN

### Don't see your neighborhood?

These are District 2 Neighborhood/Homeowner Associations registered with the City of San Antonio. If you'd like to form a neighborhood association or join an existing one, give us a call and we'll help connect you with your neighbors!



## 311SA & Getting Involved

# Have you called 311?



311 is an easy-to-remember telephone number that connects citizens with specially-trained customer service representatives ready to assist with City service requests -- potholes, stray animals, downed street signs, trash collection or other City requests. 311 provides access to customer service assistance 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., 7 days a week. 311 customer service representatives are knowledgeable, friendly and ready to help!



Councilman Jalen McKee-Rodriguez reads to students at Pre-K 4 SA | March 2, 2022



# 311 SAN ANTONIO

See anything you want to improve in your community? San Antonio's 311SA is the first social network for civic engagement where you can report non-emergency issues, such as potholes or graffiti while earning points and rewards. Interact with your city by using the 311SA mobile app to:

# 1

## FLAG IT

Snap a photo, select an issue from a list of 311 service request types, report it to your city.

# 2

## MONITOR

Monitor the progress the city is doing on your reports in real-time. Receive updates as it gets fixed!

# 3

## REWARDS

Engage with your city, get points, earn rewards, and reach new levels of engagement.

# 4

## BUILD COMMUNITY

Follow your Urban Feed! Vote up urgent issues, and share it on Facebook and Twitter to rally support.

# What's New in District 2?

## JUNE/JULY

On June 15th, Councilman Jalen McKee-Rodriguez was sworn into office. One of the first votes made was a contract with SAMMinistries to operate Days Inn as a low barrier shelter for those without housing. Throughout June and July, we hired a diverse and qualified staff, began renovations to our field office, filled our boards and commission seats, and prepared for the 2022 budget cycle.

## AUGUST

During the month of August we hosted a back to school event where we distributed backpacks and school supplies to families in District 2. We collaborated with the City's Department of Arts and Culture and discussed the Public Art Project which will be located in the Greater Love Multi-Generational Cultural Community Center.

## SEPTEMBER

On Thursday, September 16, 2021, the City Council approved the Fiscal Year 2022 budget, expected to guide equitable, substantive change in our City. Through a culmination of the feedback that we received from you, the budget

reflects the need for safe streets, sidewalks, lighting, access to affordable and quality housing, healthcare, healthy food, living wages, youth and senior programs, and other quality community needs.

## OCTOBER

During this month, the Council Office filed a Council Consideration Request (CCR) seeking the Expansion of San Antonio's Non-Discrimination Ordinance by exploring its application in private places of employment and improving current processes. It can be expected to move forward to Governance in the next few months.

## NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

The City and District 2 office hosted the Bond and ARPA Town Halls where we discussed Bond and American Rescue Plan Act projects. In both town halls we had an amazing turn out. Our community showed up and we received a lot of feedback on how funds could be utilized in our Community.

## JANUARY

The Council Office filed six Council Consideration Requests (CCRs), with every Councilmember signing at least one, promoting community safety, well-being, and equity through-out the City of San Antonio. The CCRs will be reviewed and presented by staff before City Council Committees and may potentially become City policies or ordinances if approved by the full City Council.

## FEBRUARY

The District 2 office, in collaboration with the District 4 office,



filed an additional CCR seeking the establishment of a cost-share program to help San Antonio residents cover the cost of insulin. The cost of insulin has increased almost 43-times the rate of the United States consumer price index inflation for this life-saving medication made it difficult for those who are most vulnerable to afford.

## MARCH

The Council Office participated in Read Across America with PreK4SA, hosted a Redistricting Town Hall, in addition to Boards & Commissions and Faith-Based leadership luncheons. The CCRs requesting a Food Access Master Plan and ACS Master Plan were heard at the Governance committee and will be moving to Community Health, Environment, and Culture Committee and the Public Safety Committee, respectively.

## APRIL/MAY

The City Council office completed renovations and continued efforts to expand the northeast field office. The Council office partnered with Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid to connect residents with housing resources and support. In May, all 6 Bond Propositions passed and will provide historic funding for District 2!

*A Council Consideration Request (CCR) is a policy proposal authored by a City Councilmember and co-signed by 4 other Councilmembers.*

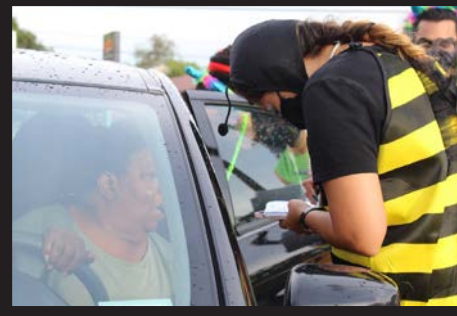




## A Community Effort



The office distributed more than 1000 backpacks with school supplies at D2's two Back2School Drives.



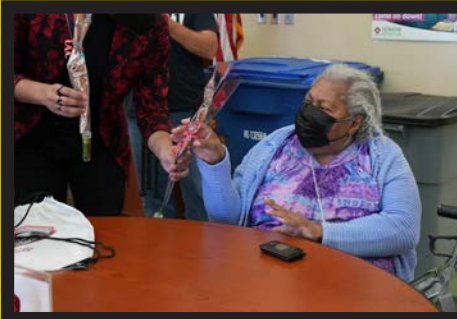
Denise Hernandez signs a constituent in at the D2 Drive-Thru Halloween food distribution.



Joleen Garcia assists a constituent before the District 2 Thanksgiving Turkey GiveAway event.



More than 150 attendees gave input on proposed projects at the District's first Bond Town Hall.



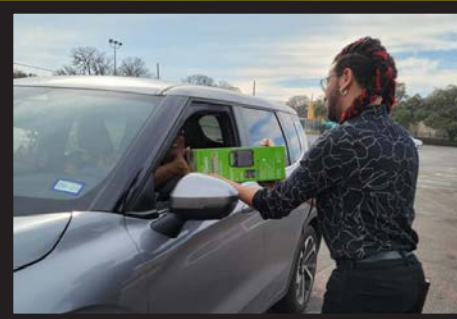
Councilman Jalen delivered flowers to seniors at the District 2 Senior Center for Valentine's Day.



Nathan McKee-Rodriguez signs a constituent in at the D2 Drive-Thru Halloween food distribution.



Over 180 residents attended the D2 Budget Town Hall to give feedback on the proposed City budget.



In preparation for the winter freeze, the District 2 office distributed over 300 heaters to D2 families.



The District 2 office distributed over 200 turkeys this year to celebrate Thanksgiving.



Joy Guy-Blake signs constituents in at the D2 Back2School Resource Fair and Supply Drive.



The District 2 Office hosted a vigil honoring the late Joe Webb, District 2's first Councilman.



This past December, the D2 Council Office provided toys to over 300 families in District 2.



# What's New in District 2?



**Jalen McKee-Rodriguez**  
City Councilman

**Favorite D2 Restaurant: Mr. & Mrs. G's**

As Councilman, Jalen serves as a policymaker at the City-level. He represents 1 of 11 votes on major Council decisions including the annual budget, city contracts including police & fire, zoning and land-use, and policy decisions. Prior to his election, Jalen was a City Year member at Davis Middle School and taught math at Sam Houston and Madison High School!



**Frankie Trynoski**  
Chief of Staff

**Favorite D2 Restaurant: Ali's Pizzeria**

As Chief of Staff, Frankie manages the council office. Frankie generally works behind the scenes to solve problems, mediate disputes, and deal with issues before they are brought to the Councilman. He ensures the Councilman's priorities are implemented through collaboration with staff. He ensures the maximum effectiveness of the Councilman and his direction.



**Marie Naranjo**  
Director of Constituent Services

**Favorite D2 Restaurant: Super Pollos Asados**

As Director of Constituent Services, Marie monitors constituent issues and concerns while working with city departments and external organizations to bring forth resolutions. She works closely with individuals, as well as advocacy groups and other organizations to provide information or referrals for City services. She has over 15 years experience in customer service and is fluent in Spanish. She has 5 kids and lives in NE Crossing!



**Sydell Brooks**  
Director of Zoning

**Favorite D2 Restaurant: Big Lou's Pizza & Wings**

As Director of Zoning and Planning, Sydell focuses on regulating the development of land within the District. He helps ensure the community is aware of proposed development and that your feedback and voices are represented in the rezoning process. He also empowers communities to engage in the rezoning process through public input opportunities. He's a former teacher with 3 years experience in planning and zoning.



# Meet the District 2 Team



*Le Reta Gatlin-McDavid*  
Chief of Operations

**Favorite D2 Restaurant:** *Mark's Outing*

As Chief of Operations, Le Reta supports in managing the field staff. Her focus is on maximizing the effectiveness of the Council Office through operational oversight and leadership. She coordinates logistics for many community engagement efforts, and serves as Chief Liaison to the MLK Commission in addition to the remaining Boards & Commissions. She is in the final stages of earning her Doctorate in Human Services.



*Joleen Garcia*  
Director of Policy & Engagement

**Favorite D2 Restaurant:** *Ma Harper's Creole Kitchen*

As Director of Political Advocacy & Community Engagement, Joleen leads in the research of, strategic planning, and creation of policy initiatives. Her goal is to bridge the gap between community and policy. As a former community organizer, she has a plethora of experience in empowering the voices of impacted communities in decision-making processes. She is a mother of two, a biologist, and an avid pickleball player!



*Denise M. Hernandez*  
Deputy Director of Policy

**Favorite D2 Restaurant:** *Jones BBQ*

As Deputy Director of Political Advocacy & Community Engagement, Denise assists in the research of, strategic planning, and creation of policy initiatives. Our goal for each policy and vote is to center our communities in a just and comprehensive way. She also assists with policy-related communications, constituent services, and event planning to ensure our community is informed and feels connected to our district and city!



*Imgard Rop*  
Director of Public Relations

**Favorite D2 Restaurant:** *Tony G's*

As the Director of Public Relations, Imgard's role is to meet communication needs for our office and District. We strive to ensure that our constituents are informed, and that each and every resident can be part of the growth of our community. Apart from Public Relations and communication, she serves as the District liaison for Art and Youth Affairs. She has a Master's in Media, Peace and Conflict Studies and is fluent in Swahili!



# What's New in District 2?

## Community Safety Summit

Join Us!

May 26, 2022

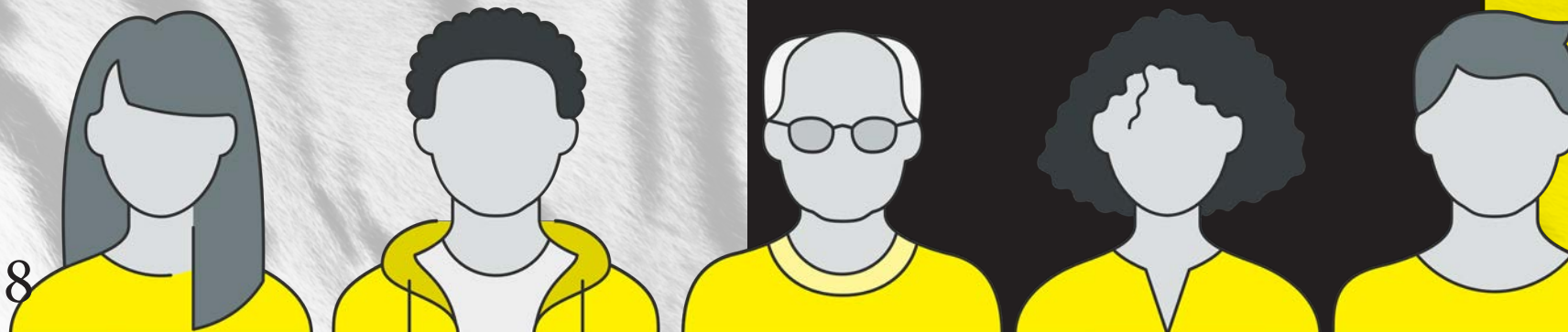
Second Baptist Church Community Center  
3310 E Commerce St | 6-8pm

Councilman Jalen McKee-Rodriguez invites you to join our District 2 Crime Prevention and Community Safety Summit on Thursday May 26. Join us for a brainstorming session to discuss community-driven solutions to crime and recidivism.

Sam Houston Marching Band performs  
before a Council Session | April 14, 2022



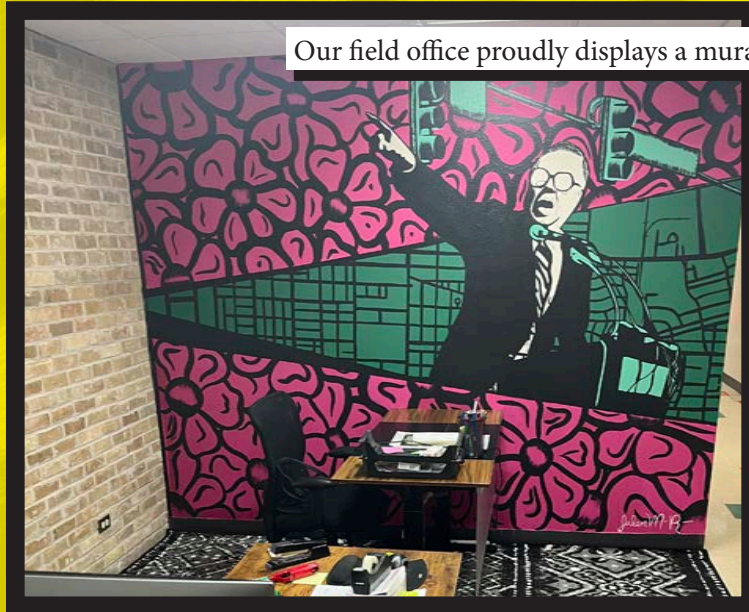
Meals on Wheels Delivery | March



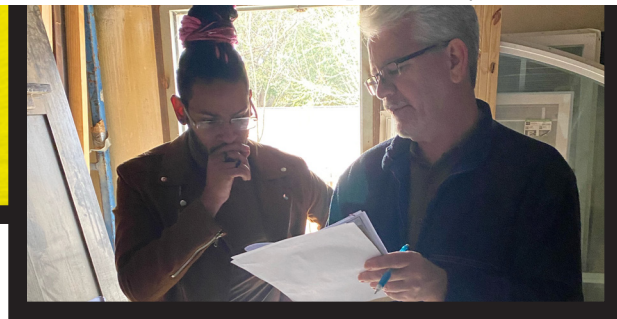


# More Updates!

Our field office proudly displays a mural of Rev. Claude Black!



Meeting w/ Architect Re: Northeast Office Expansion! | March 11, 2022



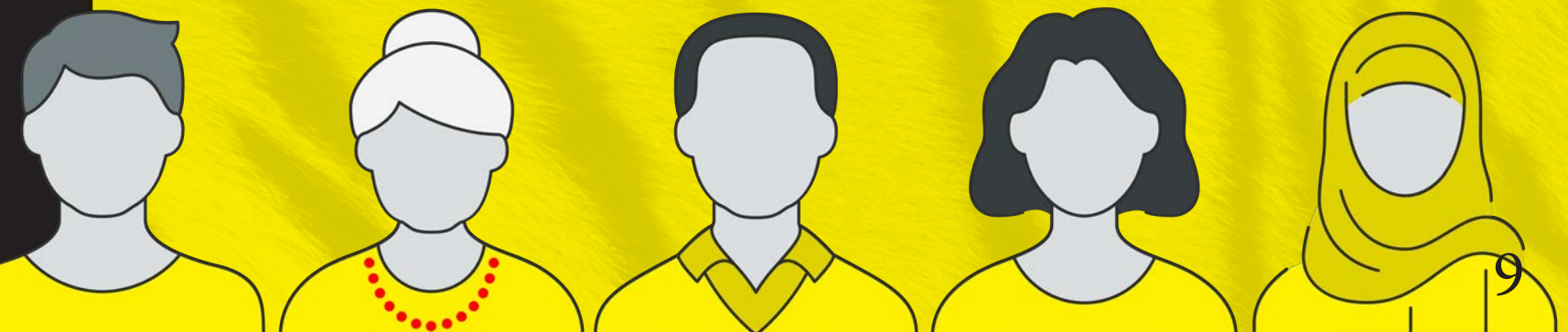
## NORTHEAST UPDATE

Did you know District 2 and District 5 are the only Council Districts with 2 field offices? That's something we're proud of! In an effort to best serve you, we are in search of an expanded Northeast Field Office that can meet all of our needs. As we resolve the technology difficulties and the plumbing & electrical issues, we will continue our search. We look forward to re-opening the Northeast office and will share with you when that happens!

If you have any questions, concerns, or need to reach us, please don't hesitate to give us a call at 210.207.0950 or visit us at the Claude Black Field Office.



Delivery | March 10, 2022





# What's New in District 2?

## What is the Bond Program?

The City's 5-year bond program funds major infrastructure projects throughout the city. This year, we are proposing a \$1.2 billion bond package that went for a public vote on May 7, 2022. This year is the first year the city is investing \$150 Million in affordable housing and rehabilitation.

**The bond was approved by voters, and District 2 will receive more money from the bond and a greater percentage of the bond than in previous elections.**

## Our community approved the following<sup>a</sup>

### Streets, Bridges, & Sidewalks

District 2 is slated to receive \$11,980,000 to repair failing streets in the district, the highest funding for F-Rated roads in the city.

District 2 Pedestrian Mobility was allocated \$ 1,000,000 for the construction of pedestrian mobility improvement projects. Our office will coordinate projects that meet specific criteria, including: proximity to schools, medical/wellness facilities, libraries and parks as well as pedestrian safety and transit access.

Eastside Area Street Improvements \$6,850,000 funding will be utilized in construction of area roadway improvements to include bicycle facilities, sidewalks, lighting, streetscape for multimodal connections to eastside parks, and other improvements.

The bond program will support Phase 2 of New Braunfels Ave (Houston St to Paso Hondo) at \$6,500,000. Funding will allow the construction of roadway improvements to include sidewalks, driveway approaches, drainage and other improvements as applicable and within available funding.

### Drainage

Peggy Drive Area (Eastgate) Drainage Improvements \$20,000,000 of bond funds will be utilized in regrading of existing earthen channel and installation of an underground storm drain system and associated reconstruction of streets with curbs, sidewalks, and driveway approaches. This will alleviate street flooding.

### Parks & Open Spaces

The bond program will fund \$3.5 Million in improvements for park improvements at MLK Park, Lockwood/Dignowity Park, Milam Wesley Tealer Park, and Dellcrest Park.

Greater Love Multigenerational Center will offer Pre-K, senior services and after school programs. \$500,000 funding was allocated, to complete this project and may include the addition of a children's playground.

The Boys & Girls Club's mission is to inspire youth, especially those who need us most, to achieve their full potential in a safe, positive and engaging environment that promotes education, health, & character development. The bond proposes \$3,750,000 in funding to support the Boys & Girls Club Eastside Branch which will fund a structural assessment & improvements.

Wheatley Heights is the first Sports Complex in the Eastside. \$1 Million in funds will be utilized to replace the football synthetic turf field and the 8 lane synthetic track, install lights, and refurbish electronic systems.

### Facilities

The Carver Branch Library project would create a first of its kind area library to serve a larger area and population in District 2 with enhanced services. Through the bond we advocated for \$12,500,000.

The Ella Austin Community Center will receive \$11,500,000 that will be utilized in renovation and facility improvements to the Ella Austin Community Center Campus to include, but not

limited to, building envelopes, interior modifications, upgrades to major building systems and site improvements.

### Housing

\$45M will fund home-owner rehabilitation to include minor repair and remediation of code violations with a priority for homes at risk for demolition for households making up to 50% of the Area Median Income and below with priority for 30%.

\$40M rental housing acquisition, rehabilitation, and preservation to prioritize public housing & income-based housing for households making up to 30% of the Area Median Income.

\$25M will be utilized for permanent Supportive Housing for people experiencing homelessness to facilitate a housing first approach in line with HUD guidance.

\$35M will be utilized in Rental housing production and acquisition to prioritize public housing/income-based housing for households making up to 50% AMI with a priority for 30% of the Area Median Income.

\$5M will be used in homeownership production for households making up to 80% of the Area Median Income, prioritizing households making 60% and below of the Area Median Income.



**Residents can view all bond program related information and material on the City's website at:**

**[www.sanantonio.gov/2022Bond](http://www.sanantonio.gov/2022Bond)**





# Bond & Policy Breakdown

**The office has filed 8 Council Consideration Requests (CCRs) for possible future policy implementation.**

Meet our District 2 Llamas!



In October of 2021, Councilman McKee-Rodriguez filed a request, supported by at least 4 other Councilmembers to expand the City's Non-Discrimination Ordinance.

In January, the Councilman filed 7 more requests, with each of the 9 other Councilmembers supporting at least one. They include: the establishment of an Insulin Cost-Sharing Program, a potential CPS/SAWS Utility Rate Freeze for seniors and people with disabilities, an Animal Care Services Master Plan to increase the live release rate and reduce the stray animal population, the creation of a Food Access Master Plan to eliminate food deserts and increase access to affordable, quality food, the development of an Office of Crime & Recidivism Prevention to make policy and budgeting recommendations to reduce crime, an Expansion to the City's Payday Loan Ordinance in order to regulate predatory lenders and close the loophole that exists within signature and personal loans, and the inclusion of a requirement for developers to complete a Displacement Study when requesting incentives for developing in areas experiencing gentrification and displacement.

Each of the Council Consideration Requests will go before the Governance Committee at the Mayor's discretion. Typically, requests are then sent to another Council Committee made up of 5 Councilmembers. Council committees include: Audit & Accountability (provides guidance and oversight of the Office of the City Auditor in the performance of its responsibilities, including municipal audits); Community Health, Environment, and Culture (oversees policies, plans and programs that affect the quality of life of our residents including the protection and enhancement of the natural environment, public health, and human services); Economic & Workforce Development (oversees policies, plans and programs related to the vitality of the local economy); Intergovernmental Relations (coordinates the City and County's respective legislative policy developments and lobbying activities and consider policies and programs); Municipal Utilities (oversees the implementation of programs and policies at SAWS and CPS); Planning & Community Development (oversees policies, plans and programs that promote orderly growth and development of the city); Public Safety (oversees policies, plans, and programs related to fire protection, emergency management, EMS service delivery, and police and law enforcement); Transportation & Mobility (reviews policies, plans and programs that are designed to enhance connectivity and mobility of all kinds).





## **DISTRICT TWO COUNCILMAN**

**JALEN MCKEE-RODRIGUEZ**

P.O. Box 839966  
San Antonio, TX 78283

# Community Resources

Animal Care Services  
210.207.3338

Arts & Culture  
210.207.6730

Childcare Assistance  
210.207.8198

Development Services/CODE  
210.207.8259

Historic Preservation  
210.207.8316

Homeless Connections Hotline  
(210) 207-1799

Human Services  
210.207.8198

Libraries  
210.207.2644

Metro Health  
210.207.8730

Neighborhood/Housing Services  
210.207.6459

Parks & Recreation  
210.207.8480

Planning  
210.207.0147

Public Works  
210.207.8022

Transportation  
210.207.8022

Alamo Area Resource Center  
210-358-9995

SAWS Project Agua  
210-207-7830

Senior Services  
210.207.8198

Solid Waste  
210.207.6428

Texas Diaper Bank  
210-731-8118

Workforce Development  
210.207.5627

World Heritage  
210.207.2111

